Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A standby circuit for an electrical device ~~(40)~~ having

one or more signal inputs ~~(3, 4, 5)~~ and

a control unit ~~(28)~~ and

a control output ~~(8)~~ for the control of a power supply unit ~~(42)~~,

in which the control unit ~~(28)~~ initiates an activation procedure on the occurrence of a predefined activation event at the signal input ~~(3, 4, 5)~~,

in which a signal to switch on a power supply unit ~~(42)~~ is generated at the control output ~~(8)~~;

further comprising a programming interface for programming the control unit, wherein the programming determines how the control unit responds to inputs from the one or more signal inputs.

2. (currently amended) A standby circuit as claimed in claim 1, in which one of the signal inputs is a useful signal input ~~(4)~~ for a useful signal of an electrical device ~~(40)~~.

3. (currently amended) A standby circuit as claimed in claim 1, in which one of the signal inputs is a switch input ~~(3)~~ for the connection of a button.

4. (currently amended) A standby circuit as claimed in claim 1, in which one of the signal inputs is a remote control input ~~(5)~~ for the signals from a wireless remote control.

5. (currently amended) A standby circuit as claimed in claim 4, in which the signal input ~~(5)~~ for the connection of an infrared sensor element ~~(54)~~ is suitable for the detection of the signals from an infrared remote control.

6. (currently amended) A standby circuit as claimed in claim 1, in which one of the signal inputs is a digital data input, which can be connected to any digital interface, such as computer networks.

7. (currently amended) A standby circuit as claimed in claim 1, in which a store ~~(30)~~ is provided.

8. (currently amended) A standby circuit as claimed in claim 1, in which a clock ~~(26)~~ is provided.

9. (currently amended) A standby circuit as claimed in claim 8, in which

the control unit ~~(28)~~ performs a time switch function,

in which an activation time is preset, and the activation procedure is initiated on reaching the activation time.

10. (currently amended) A standby circuit as claimed in claim 1, in which one or more clock inputs ~~(6, 7)~~ are provided.

11. (currently amended) A standby circuit as claimed in claim 1, in which one or more communication terminals ~~(9, 10)~~ are provided for sending and/or receiving data to/from the control unit ~~(28)~~ and/or the store ~~(30)~~.

12. (currently amended) A standby circuit as claimed in claim 1, in which the circuit ~~(ZPS)~~ is constructed as a single integrated component.

13. (currently amended) A standby circuit as claimed in claim 1, in which the control unit ~~(28)~~ forwards the signals arriving at the remote control input ~~(5)~~ via a communication terminal ~~(9, 10)~~.

14. (currently amended) A standby circuit as claimed in claim 1, in which

a store stores remote control activation signals,

the control unit ~~(28)~~ compares signals arriving at the remote control input ~~(5)~~ with the stored activation signals,

and if they match initiates the activation procedure.

15. (currently amended) An electrical device with

one or more functional units ~~(46)~~

and a power supply unit ~~(42)~~ for connection to a power supply ~~(44)~~ and for feeding the functional units ~~(46)~~ with electrical energy, characterized in that

the device ~~(40)~~ is switchable into a power-down mode,

in which the power supply unit ~~(42)~~ is switched off,

while a standby circuit ~~(ZPS)~~ remains active, which switches on the power supply unit ~~(42)~~ of the device ~~(40)~~ at the occurrence of an activation event,

an energy store configured to supply stored electrical energy to the standby circuit.

16. (currently amended) An electrical device as claimed in claim 15 comprising a standby circuit ~~(ZPS)~~.

17. (currently amended) An electrical device as claimed in claim 15, in which a power supply circuit ~~(76)~~ is provided for supplying electrical energy to the standby circuit ~~(ZPS)~~, while the power supply circuit draws electrical energy directly from the electricity power grid.

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) An electrical device as claimed in claim 15~~18~~, in which the energy store is a rechargeable element ~~(58, 72)~~, while the energy store is charged when the power supply unit ~~(42)~~ is switched on.

20. (currently amended) An electrical device as claimed in claim 19, in which

the control unit ~~(28)~~ of the standby circuit ~~(ZPS)~~ is programmed when the device ~~(40)~~ is switched to the power-down mode so that,

after a predetermined period of time the device ~~(40)~~ is switched back to the power-up mode, so that the energy store ~~(58, 72)~~ is charged again,

while the period of time is calculated so that the rechargeable element ~~(58, 72)~~ supplies sufficient electrical energy for the operation of the standby circuit for this period of time.

21. (currently amended) An electrical device as claimed in claim 15, comprising a circuit for monitoring the remaining content of the energy store ~~(50)~~.

22. (currently amended) A method for the control of an electrical device, in which

an electrical device ~~(40)~~, which has one or more functional units ~~(46)~~ and at least one power supply unit ~~(42)~~ for feeding the functional units ~~(46)~~ with electrical energy,

is switched from a power-up mode to a power-down mode,

while at least one power supply unit ~~(42)~~ is switched on in the power-up mode and all the power supply units ~~(42)~~ are switched off in the power-down mode,

but while a standby circuit ~~(ZPS)~~ remains active in the power-down mode,

which standby circuit ~~(ZPS)~~ monitors one or more signal inputs ~~(3, 4, 5)~~ for the occurrence of an activation event,

and which switches the device ~~(40)~~ from the power-down mode to the power-up mode again at the occurrence of an activation event,

and which bi-directional data exchange occurs between the standby circuit and the one or more functional units.

23. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 22, in which

the initiating activation event is stored in the standby circuit ~~(ZPS)~~,

and is interrogated after the device ~~(40)~~ has been switched on.

24. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 22, in which

the standby circuit ~~(ZPS)~~ is programmed by way of a communication interface,

while there is set which of the events occurring at the inputs should represent activation events.

25. (canceled)

26. (new) An electrical device with

one or more functional units

and a power supply unit for connection to a power supply and for feeding the functional units with electrical energy, characterized in that

the device is switchable into a power-down mode,

in which the power supply unit is switched off,

while a standby circuit remains active, which switches on the power supply unit of the device at the occurrence of an activation event,

a data bus that enables bi-directional data communications between the standby circuit and one or more of the functional units.